



AETHWY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year

1952

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G.P. Wallace, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

including the Annual Report of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Christopher Hughes, C.R.S.I.

AETHWY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR
THE YEAR 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Aethwy Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report for
the year 1952.

Reviewing the vital statistics it will be noted that
the birth rate has risen in comparison with last year. When
allowance is made for the age and sex composition of the district
the rate compares favourably with the rate for England and
Wales.

The death rate has fallen and is almost the same as it
was in 1950, but you will note with some concern that the infant
mortality rate has risen to 59.8 per 1,000 live births. This
figure is higher than those for both England and Wales and
Anglesey and is the highest since before 1949. Having only
recently taken up office I have not yet had an opportunity to
investigate the causes of this serious rising trend in the infant
mortality rate.

It is gratifying to note that there were no maternal
deaths.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Chairman and
members of the Council and to my fellow officers for their help
in the preparation of this report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. Mervyn Thomas.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	52,352
Population (Registrar General's estimate mid 1952)	10,650			
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	3,630
Number of council houses	...	...	...	221
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£35,000
Sum produced by a penny rate	...	...	...	£133

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	79	93	172
Illegitimate	7	5	12
	<u>86</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>184</u>

The Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population was 17.3. Rates for previous years were: 1949, 17.1; 1950, 17.5; 1951, 14.2. The Birth Rate for Anglesey in 1952 was 17.0

The age and sex composition of a district affects the death and birth rates and to allow for this the Registrar General has issued figures for each local authority area known as comparability factors for the purpose of adjusting the local death and birth rates. The adjusted rates provide figures which can be more equitably compared with the national figures. I have set the crude birth rate for Anglesey against the crude birth rate for Aethwy as the age and sex compositions (judging by the comparability factors issued) show a roughly similar "bias".

The Adjusted Birth Rate for Aethwy for 1952 was 19.7. The Birth Rate for England & Wales was 15.3.

<u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	4	5
Illegitimate	1	0	1
	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>

The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 31.6. The rate for 1951 in the District was 25.5. The 1952 stillbirth rate per 1,000 estimated population was 0.56 as compared with 0.43 for Anglesey and 0.35 for England & Wales.

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	75	65	140
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population was 13.1. Rates for previous years were: 1949, 15.0; 1950, 13.6; 1951, 16.0. The Death Rate for Anglesey in 1952 was 13.4.

The Adjusted Death Rate for 1952 was 11.1. Death rate for England & Wales was 11.3.

Maternal Deaths

Nil

Deaths Under One Year of Age.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	7	4	11
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	7	4	11
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births was 52.8. Rates for previous years were: 1949, 56.2; 1950, 45.9; 1951, 45.7. Rate for Anglesey in 1952, 47.4; England & Wales, 27.6.

Deaths of Infants Under 4 weeks of Age.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	5	3	8
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live birth was 43.4. Rate for England & Wales, 19 provisional, Anglesey 33.

The following table shows the causes of death in the district. These figures have been supplied by the Registrar General and are in accordance with the new International Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death.

Causes of Death			M	F
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	1	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	0	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	1	0
4.	Diphtheria	...	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	...	1	0
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	0	0
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	0	0
8.	Measles	...	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	0	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	3	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	0	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	1	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	0	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	...	7	6
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	0	0
16.	Diabetes	...	0	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	16	13
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	12	3
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	1	0
20.	Other heart disease	...	8	17
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	2	5
22.	Influenza	...	1	0
23.	Pneumonia	...	1	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	1	1
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	...	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	1	0
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	1	0
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	0	0
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	2	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	...	2	0
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	8	9
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	1	0
34.	All other accidents	...	1	0
35.	Suicide	...	2	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war.	...	0	0
ALL CAUSES			75	65

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

These services are provided by the County Council and by General Medical Practitioners in the District. The following figures are quoted by courtesy of the County Medical Officer.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

A total of 198 children were vaccinated during the year, of which 102 were primary vaccinations and 96 re-vaccinations.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Total number of children immunised during	1952	=	138
" " " " " "	1951	=	132
" " " " " "	1950	=	155
" " " " " "	1949	=	150
" " " " " "	1948	=	158

Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

B.C.G. vaccination is carried out by the Chest Physician in collaboration with the County Medical Officer and his staff. The scheme provides for the vaccination of new-born infants born into tuberculous households and of tuberculin negative contacts of known cases. During 1952 19 such vaccinations were carried out in the District.

Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis).

Table showing cases notified during the year, classified in age groups.

Disease	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15 & over	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	-	-	3	4	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	10	7	24	32	5	-	1
Measles	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Acute or Influenzal Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	2	8	2

Tuberculosis.

Notifications of Tuberculosis were as follows:-

	Age	Sex	Respiratory or Non-respiratory
Transfer	5	F	Respiratory
	14	F	Non-Respiratory
	16	M	Respiratory
	21	F	"
	24	F	"
	25	M	"
	27	F	"
Transfer	32	F	Non-respiratory
	32	M	"
	41	F	Respiratory
	42	F	"
	45	M	"
	50	M	"
	55	F	"
	60	M	"
	61	M	"

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1952.

Housing:

There were in this Rural area up to December 1952:-

2446 Privately owned dwelling houses.

221 Council houses.

963 Farms.

124 Business premises such as shops, garages,
Warehouses and Commercial properties.

Included in the figures 2446 there are 394 houses scheduled for demolition, the majority of which are of the Celtic Type which has one living room, and in some cases 2 bedrooms on the ground floor and a grog loft. Several of this type of Cottages are in blocks of 2 and 4, and belong to the same owner.

Their sanitary conditions vary considerably and that is reflected to a very great extent upon the persons occupying them. Their constructional conditions also vary considerably, but it can safely be said that not one of them is provided with a Damp proof course. The Rents run from 2/- to 5/- per week inclusive of rates.

To carry out extensive repairs, extension and re-conditioning to bring them up to a reasonable standard of fitness would cost between £500 - £1000, depending on the magnitude of the additions in the form of bedrooms and the existing conditions of the roof. In spite of much publicity it is surprising how few landlords even inquire about the Financial assistance offered by the Government for the improvement in the way of additional accommodation and modernisation of properties.

Between the years 1930 - 1939 several landlords converted blocks of 2 Celtic Cottages into one dwelling and it is surprising how comfortable and convenient they have been made. The grant then was only £100, yet more landlords availed themselves of the scheme then, than at present.

The big problem is whether to operate to their full extent sections 9, 10, 11 of the Housing Act 1936 in respect of the Houses scheduled for demolition or deal with them under the Slum Clearance.

The procedure is not a very difficult one to carry out if the landlords would co-operate. The following action can be taken.

1. Inspect the houses. ^{of the defect}
2. Inform the landlord/and the work required to be done.
3. If the landlord fails to comply with the requirements, the matter to be reported to the Council asking them to authorize a statutory notice for repairs, or the Council may decide in the light of the report of their Sanitary Officers that the properties can be better dealt with by way of demolition bearing in mind that a new house will have to be provided for the displaced tenant and the old house demolished.

What the Council is trying to do is to prevent houses scheduled for demolition from becoming tenanted again, when they become vacant which often happens when a tenant from a scheduled house moves into a Council house. Tenants occupying poor and low rented houses have been very reluctant in the past to apply for Council houses because of their comparatively high rent. That tendency appears to be lessening. The Council is building 29 houses at Brynsiencyn and it will be interesting to note how many of the tenants of the houses scheduled for demolition at Brynsiencyn will apply for the 29 houses referred to.

What the Council is really waiting for, is the time when they will have sufficient Council houses available to offer those tenants who occupy houses scheduled for demolition and its rate is governed by the rate of new building.

Every effort is being made to get landlords to render minimum or first aid repairs to properties scheduled for demolition and keep them occupied until better accommodation is available. The Council has in extreme cases of dangerous despair carried out the repairs at their own expense.

The serving of the Formal Notice under the Public Health Act or Housing Act, does not have the desired effect because of the low rent, and the landlord has not the financial capacity to pay for the repairs. There also arises the further difficulty that the landlord is not permitted a reasonable increase in rent to meet the cost of repairs.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

The sanitary circumstances of the District are not satisfactory because there are no public sewers available to deal with full sanitary services of the dwelling houses and other properties occupied for human habitation. The conditions are gradually improving, because piped water supply is becoming available, but the high cost of providing public sewer and the difficulty in getting landlords to promise to undertake to provide drains and sanitary appliances for connection to the proposed sewer is really a major problem. It is appreciated that the Council has compulsory power to compel landlords to connect their drains to a Public Sewer, but to operate the powers in the case of low rented houses will require tremendous legal procedure, and judging from the present response as the result of a survey, it appears that very strong legal action must be taken.

Summary of visits and work carried out during the year.

Dwelling houses inspected for nuisances

(a) Number of houses	...	...	30
(b) Number of inspections	...	...	40
Number of drains tested with colour, water or smoke	...	...	0
Visits to work in progress	...	...	10 private houses
Interviews with owners or representatives	...	...	5
Dwelling houses where nuisances abated	...	...	10

Visits in connection with overcrowding	...	4	
Visits in connection with infectious diseases..		6	
Visits for disinfection of premises	...	6	
Visits to bakehouses, restaurants, cafes, canteens and hotel kitchens	...	10	
Visits to ice cream premises	...	6	
Visits to fish friers' premises	...	7	
Visits to other food-preparing premises	...	0	
Visits re Shop Acts	...	14	Grocers & Butchers.
Visits to workplaces	...	5	mainly Joiners' Shops.
Notices served			
(a) Informal	...	25	
(b) Statutory	...	1	
Number of cases in which legal proceedings taken		0	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES - Investigation and Disinfection.

The disinfection of bedding cannot be effectively carried out until the Council provide a conveyance to take the infested bedding to a sterilizing station. The present method in respect of tuberculosis is to destroy bedding including pillows and all articles which cannot be washed, and any compensation for them to the extent of about half the cost of new replacements.

As the amount of work is not sufficient to warrant purchasing a closed conveyance and the employment of a driver, the Council has ordered purchasing a trailer to attach it to my car, which I have agreed to do. The bedding, and all articles in the bedroom which cannot be washed, can be taken to the sterilizing station at Llangefni.

Inspection under the Factories Act, 1952.

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories WITHOUT MECHANICAL POWER in which Section 1,2,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced.	6	-	-	-
Factories not included above to which Section 7 applies:-				
(a) WITHOUT MECHANICAL POWER but enforcement of Sections 1,2,3,4,6, by Local Authorities revoked by the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938.	-	-	-	-

Premises	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
(b) Others i.e., Factories WITH MECHANICAL POWER.	28	28	-	-
Other premises under the Act (excluding out workers' premises)	2	2	-	-
TOTAL	36	30	-	-

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	2	2	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation.	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	-	-

Shops Act, 1950.

There are no large business premises operating in the District employing assistants. They are almost all owner occupied and the staff live on the premises.

Preserved Food - Preparation or Manufacture.

N11.

Milk

The number of milk distributors and dairy premises (other than dairy farms) is 44.

Ice Cream.

Number of premises registered

- (a) for the manufacture of ice cream1
- (b) only for the sale of ice cream18

Fish Friers' Premises.

Number of premises registered8

Offensive Trades.

Number of premisesNil.

Unsound Food.

Food condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption (outside slaughterhouses).

	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Cwts</u>
Butchers' Meat (including offal)	-	-
Other food (including tinned food)	-	2

Rodent Control.

	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Infestation found</u>	<u>Infestation treated</u>
Council Houses	278	Minor	175
Private Dwellings	588	"	386
Business Premises	101	"	24
Refuse Tips	28	"	21

Water supply.

With the exception of the particulars given below, all of the properties are supplied by private and public wells, some of which yield a satisfactory and plentiful supply.

In spite of the generous conditions offered by the County Council for the payment of connection fees, householders as a whole are extremely reluctant to connect their properties to the water main.

The County Water Scheme is now available in the following mentioned villages. Gaerwen, Llanfair, Brynsiencyn, Newborough, Dwyran, Llangaffo, Malltraeth. Stand pipes supplies are operating in Brynsiencyn, Dwyran and Newborough.

Proportion of total number of dwelling houses supplied by public water mains:

- (a) direct to houses 366 10%
- (b) by means of standpipes 218 6%

Drainage and Sewage Disposal.

The Council's consulting engineers have prepared schemes of Sewerage Disposal for Brynsiencyn, Dwyran and Newborough.

A survey is now being prepared as to the number of householders in the village of Newborough who are prepared to connect their properties to the proposed sewer voluntarily.

A sewage disposal unit is provided for each post war housing site. There are no sewers in any of the 17 parishes with the exception of Llanfair P.G., where there is an outfall sewer discharging into the Menai Straits. It is getting a very difficult problem to site a scheme of say 20 houses and provide a sewage disposal unit to serve them in a position where it will not be a source of nuisance at any time. to satisfy the landowner, the Ministry of Agriculture, Planning Authority and the Ministry of Local Government and planning is what the Council must do before they can proceed with the project.

Refuse Disposal.

The collection of refuse is done twice a month in each village. The service appears to be giving complete satisfaction although the existing facilities will have to be augmented very soon to cope with the additional demand upon them due mainly to the increase in council house building.

There are 2 disposal sites operating and no complaints are received about their condition. They are kept under regular supervision for infestation by the Rodent Officer.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(1) a.	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts...	12
b.	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	12
(2) a.	Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. ...	0
b.	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	0
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ...	4
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ...	0

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. ... 0

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 .

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. 1

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after services of formal notices.

(a) By owners ... 4

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 1

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. ... 0

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.

(a) By owners ... 0

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners. 0

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made. ... 0

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished. 0

(3) Number of houses awaiting demolition scheduled. 394

(4) Number of houses in which undertakings accepted for use other than for human habitation. 2

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. ... 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or room having been rendered fit. 0

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part III - Section 26.

Number of houses in respect of which Clearance Orders were made. ... 0

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	...	...	0
(2) Number of families dwelling therein.			0
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein.			0
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	...	...	0
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	...	...	0
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases.			0
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.			0

Summary of Housing Defects and Nuisances Remedied during the year.

Keeping of animals	...	...	...	1
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	2
Sanitary accommodation, insufficient..	...	...	...	0
defective	...	...	...	1
Drainage	reconstruction	...	...	0
	repaired	...	...	0
	cleansed	...	...	0
Cesspools and septic tanks,				
	abolished	...	...	0
	repaired	...	...	6
Conversions to W.C.'s	...	...	...	60
Refuse receptacles	...	...	...	40
Food Stores	...	...	...	0
Water Supplies	...	...	...	10
Walls and ceilings	...	...	...	0
Floors	...	...	...	0
Windows and ventilation	...	...	...	0
Baths, lavatory basins and sinks.	...	...	...	0
Staircases	...	...	...	0
Coppers (defective)	...	...	...	2
Dampness	...	...	...	0
Roofs and rainwater pipes..	...	...	...	0

Christopher Hughes,

Sanitary Inspector.